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CELEBRATE COMMUNITYFEST

By: **Alyssa DiMaria**

NSU’s 12th annual CommunityFest, a carnival-like festival that aims to connect NSU students with community members while raising school spirit, will take place on Feb. 7 from noon to 4 p.m. at Gold Circle Lake on NSU’s main campus.

An average of 4,500 people participate in the event each year. Approximately 75 student organizations and 25 academic departments and colleges will set up booths around the lake and host interactive activities and giveaways to engage participants.

The event was started in 2003 by Director of Student Media Michelle Manley, who was a student at the time, to connect NSU with the community. It has become one of the most popular campus traditions.

The event will also include free food, live entertainment, a bounce house, a “Shark Slide,” a petting zoo, bumper cars, a caricature artist, a rock wall, an obstacle course, paddle boats and more.

Graduate Assistant for Student Affairs at the Regional



CommunityFest is one of the most popular campus traditions, with many activities for everyone who attends. COURTESY OF NSUNEWS.NOVA.EDU

Campuses Danielle Durbala said CommunityFest has grown exponentially since its creation and bridged the gap between the Davie and Fort Lauderdale community and the NSU community.

“There seems to be a record number of attendees from year to year and the involvement from on campus and off-campus continues to grow,” Durbala said.

All six regional campus student governments attend and have booths with games and giveaways.

“They come from all over the state to participate in this event,” she said. “Student organizations have also been increasingly involved from our main campus.”

Graduate Assistant for Assessment and Student Engagement Nikki Tennesen said

CommunityFest benefits everyone involved and is one of the few places everyone can come together.

“The students have an opportunity to talk about the exciting things their organizations are doing and have the opportunity to recruit more students; food vendors have the opportunity to advertise and connect with potential customers; the community has the opportunity

to come and enjoy a fun day the entire family can enjoy,” she said.

Tennesen is a part of the CommunityFest committee, which planned the entire event.

“This is a large-scale event that couldn’t be done without all of the help from those on the committee and it’s been a great experience to work with such a great group of people,” she said.

Shamauri Callahan, sophomore biology major, said CommunityFest is one of the best events in the second semester and described it as a lasting experience.

“Last year, I had so much fun getting to know the organizations on campus and local vendors in the area,” she said. “It feels like one big party.”

Callahan said her favorite part of CommunityFest is the different kinds of food, the optometry school’s booth and getting to meet new people.

“Students who attend this event will be able to connect with new people and try something different; CommunityFest is an event like no other,” she said.

NSU TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By: **Keren Moros**

NSU will celebrate Black History Month throughout February with campus-wide events, including panel discussions, film viewings and other events hosted by university offices and student organizations.

The celebrations will kick off with the opening reception of the 12th annual African Presence art exhibit on Feb. 5 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This year’s exhibit features photography by Michael July of people with natural hair and is titled “Afros: A Celebration of Natural Hair.”

Director of Internal Communications at the Office of University Relations Mara Kiffen said this year’s events were planned by a committee with representatives from several NSU colleges and offices. The committee has been planning the events since October, making sure that events don’t conflict. NSU has been celebrating Black History Month with campus-wide events for 10 years.

“It’s unique every year in that each of the schools and colleges try to touch on different subjects and different areas that might be of interest to the NSU community as well as

the outside community,” Kiffen said. “We try to keep things relevant to what’s going on in the news as well as society, so those kinds of discussions are always very interesting and bring a lot of people from the community. Everybody wants to talk about it and share their thoughts on it.”

For example, Kiffen said there will be an event titled Race Issues in America: The Ferguson Police Shooting and Beyond on Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. This event will be hosted by the Student Government Association at NSU’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences and the Black Student Union will host a panel discussion on Feb. 10 titled Race and the Justice System. Panel members will include members of the Black Student Union, NSU professors and Major Gregory Salters from the Fort Lauderdale Police Department.

A new event this year will be Blacks in Innovation: A Technology Fair, an event for middle school students hosted by the Office of Innovation and Information Technology.

“Every year we try to get bigger and better and I hope that everyone’s

SEE **BLACK HISTORY 2**

NSU RECEIVES GRANT TO HELP VETERANS

By: **Keren Moros**

NSU is one of three South Florida schools to receive a \$25,000 grant from the Veterans Trust, grant-making foundation that maximizes the collaboration of existing veteran service organizations.

After working with veterans at NSU and Florida Atlantic University, Veterans Trust Executive Director Fred Roger joined Veterans Trust. The organization originally wanted to fund only Broward College. He realized that one school was not enough and he needed to fund additional schools so they can communicate with each other, create a communication model for other counties to replicate and help veterans. This led to the decision to fund one state college, one local college and one nonprofit college: FAU, BC and NSU.

Roger spoke with NSU leadership about this plan and they were open to working with the other schools. These leaders included Chancellor Ray Ferrero Jr. and Dean of the Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health and Justice Kimberley Durham and Senior Associate Dean of Operations



Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Jacqueline A. Travisano poses with Fred Roger of Veterans Trust, which awarded NSU money to support its veterans attendees. COURTESY OF F. ROGER

and Student Services at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences Susanne Marshall.

“This is going to impact the lives of current veterans and generations to come,” Roger said. “That’s the importance of this initiative.”

Durham said Veterans Trust will serve as a conduit for representatives from each university to meet and gather ideas for supporting veterans.

“We were selected by Veterans Trust because it was established here to take a look at some of the gaps that were occurring in the academic educational environment for veterans because they place a very high importance on educational benefits for veterans that are returning,” Durham said.

Durham said the money will first go to enhancing NSU’s veteran resource

SEE **VETERANS 2**

BLACK HISTORY from 1

continuing to enjoy it,” Kiffen said.

Also on the planning committee is student Stephen Roberts, graduate student in mental health counseling. He and other students will be modeling different forms of natural hair at the

opening reception of the African Presence exhibit. Roberts, who has been on the planning committee for the past three years, said Black History Month is important to him because he believes black history is American history.

“I do what I can to impress upon my friends, acquaintances and anyone that I’m around to attend these events because it’s in some of the most unlikely places that we learn things that you may otherwise not have learned,” Roberts said. “So I think it’s important

for everyone to attend at least some events, preferably all.”

The final event will be the Second Annual “Let’s Speak Truth,” Poetry and Spoken Word Night, taking place March 12 at 6 p.m. Roberts said this event is repeated from last year because the first event had a great turnout.

“The speakers will be representative of what the month is about and a lot of the pieces will be celebrating the lives and contributions of people of color and African Americans and our music and poetry,”

Roberts said.

Roberts said he wants students to know that the events are open for everyone and that it’s a great educational opportunity. He also encourages students to attend and administrators to tell students about the events.

“The events will aim to inspire,” Roberts said. “We want people to explore different avenues and different routes of finding success and getting things done.”

For a full list of events, visit nova.edu/blackhistory/events.html.

NSU TO HOST “THE FLORIDA APE” EXPO

By: **Li Cohen**

From Feb. 20 to Feb. 22, NSU will host the sixth annual Florida Arcade and Pinball Exposition, also known as “The Florida APE,” in the Arena at the Don Taft University Center.

This will be the first time NSU hosts the expo, and around 2,000 people are expected to attend.

The expo will be set up like an 80s-style arcade and will feature more than 250 videogame and pinball machines from various decades. Attendees can play all the games for free after buying a ticket. There will also be a large section for retro and modern PC and console gaming devices, tournaments and comic book vendors.

Marcel Gonzalez, organizer for The Florida APE, said, “This is a time to relive a memory. You don’t see these games anymore because they’re all from private collections. It’s an experience you just cannot miss.”

The highlight of the weekend, according to Gonzales, will be

the International Flipper Pinball Association pinball tournament, which will last all three days. The tournament is open to amateurs and professionals, and winners will receive prize money and a trophy. Last year’s prize was \$3,000 and was split between four contenders. Registration will be available inside the expo on Friday.

Along with the tournament, there will also be console gaming contests for systems such as Nintendo 64, Sega Genesis, Atari and Xbox. This will be the first time the expo incorporates the consoles courtesy of Supercon Gaming and Arcade Odyssey, and Gonzalez said he is excited to see how it turns out.

Jeffrey Paszternak, sophomore business administration and sports recreation and management major, said that he is looking forward to the opportunity to play different video games and systems.

“I’m most excited about playing Nintendo 64 because I am a huge fan of the Legend of Zelda series,” he said. “I used to play it when I was a kid, and I would love to get back into the series in the future.”

Gonzalez started the expo with his close friend Charlie Lyle in 2004 as an experiment to see how successful a pinball exposition would be in Florida. Gonzalez and Lyle both collected pinball machines and showed them at the expo, along with the pinball machines that belonged to some of their friends.

“This is totally different. You’ll never see something like this again,” Gonzalez said.

The expo was discontinued for a few years, but after Lyle’s death, Gonzalez decided to start the expo up again in 2010.

“I kind of had the itch for the expo,” he said. “It was time to start it up again.”

The expo will be open from 3 p.m. to midnight on Friday, noon to midnight on Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. For NSU students, staff and alumni, a daily pass is \$15, and a ticket for all three days is \$35. Tickets are available at the arena box office or at ticketmaster.com

For more information on the expo, visit floridaape.com.

65 ROSES FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS

By: **Alyssa DiMaria**

NSU’s Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority will host its first annual “65 Rose Bowl” flag football tournament to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation on Feb. 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Bill Gessner Sports Field near the residence halls.

DPhiE Philanthropy Coordinator and freshman business administration and dance major, Jessica Rodriguez, said the name “65 Rose Bowl” was named after the nickname for Cystic Fibrosis. “65 roses” is what some children call the disease because the words are easier for them to pronounce. The rose has become a symbol of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Rodriguez said she came up with idea for a flag football tournament to fundraise.

“Usually, our big fundraising event for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF) takes place in the Fall semester – the very successful Mr. Fintastic – but, I wanted to come up with a big event that takes place in the Winter semester,” she said.

Rodriguez said CFF is a nonprofit, donor-supported organization and the world’s leader in the search for a cure for CF.

“The foundation funds lifesaving research and works to provide access to quality, specialized care and effective treatments for people with CF,” she said.

DPhiE Vice President of



DPhiE will host their first annual “65 Rose Bowl” to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. COURTESY OF 65ROSES.COM

Programming and sophomore business administration major Nicole Almeida said the flag football tournament is beneficial to DPhiE’s cause because it is an outdoors event.

“CF is a disease that affects the lungs, and by having this event outside we are able to promote the privilege of breathing fresh air without difficulties,” she said.

Rodriguez said it’s important for the NSU community to be aware of CF because an estimated 30,000 children and adults in the U.S. have it.

“About 1,000 new cases of CF are diagnosed each year,” she said. “More than 75 percent of people with CF are diagnosed by age two and nearly half of the CF population is age 18 or older.”

During the week leading up to this event, DPhiE will be tabling in the Don Taft University Center Pit.

Almeida said, “Contracting CF

can happen to more people than one thinks because it’s genetic and a cause that cannot be prevented.”

Rodriguez said, “After losing one of our beautiful sisters, Rojeana Auriel Hall in 2012, to CF, the sisters at NSU’s chapter of DPhiE have dedicated themselves to this philanthropy in support of finding a cure.”

The event is open to all registered student organizations and anyone else who would like to make a team of 7-10 people. Organizations and students must sign up no later than five days before the tournament.

If a student is not on a team, but would like to participate, they can join another team on the day of the event. To sign up, contact Rodriguez at jr2387@nova.edu or 305-297-5210.

Those who do not want to participate, can support the teams as an audience member. Beverages, food and music will be provided.



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NSU’S NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE

By: **Jazmyn Brown & Alyssa DiMaria**
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On Jan. 31, NSU celebrated its 17th annual signature event Celebration of Excellence, which recognizes and highlights NSU’s achievements and select members of the community for their outstanding impact.

The evening began with a reception at the Fellows Way Courtyard, with dinner immediately following in a specially constructed tent on the Alvin Sherman Library quad.

During the reception, event attendees signed a large silver construction beam, which will be placed in front of the new Center for Collaborative Research. research building.

Levi Morris, graduate student from the College of Pharmacy signed the beam.

“This, right here, is a piece of history; basically everyone who’s at this event is signing and being a part of history,” Morris said.

Morris said the Celebration of Excellence is a thank you for what donors have done and what they have donated.

“This is just the way we say thank you from NSU, that we do appreciate what they have done; they have definitely helped us to grow into who we are now,” he said. “Everything that they do goes back to them in some way or another, whether it’s through our students’ development, faculty development or us out in the community.”

The dinner was hosted by President George Hanbury. He showcased the university, shared NSU’s achievements and discussed the university’s vision.

“Tonight, we celebrate the university and its excellence to satisfy and exemplify the core values of our community,” he said. “We recognize those individuals who have supported the university financially, as well as with their time and talent.”

Hanbury was introduced by Undergraduate Student Government Association President Kelly Scott, senior athletic training major.

“The Celebration of Excellence not only honors our donors, but helps create scholarship opportunities for all of our students,” Scott said.

The main part of the evening



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COURTESY OF A. DIMARIA
Around 700 students, faculty, staff, alumni and other community members attended the Celebration of Excellence.

consisted of honoring Judy and Barry Silverman, the recipients of the President’s Excellence in Community Service Award, for their philanthropic service to NSU and the South Florida community.

“The couple has not only given to the university with their time, talents and treasures, but has also given back to the community in multiple areas,” Hanbury said.

Event attendees watched a video highlighting the Silverman’s demonstration of excellence in our community – one of NSU’s eight core values.

Hanbury said, “This award represents how well their partnership has helped to fulfill the university’s excellence, students, academic programs and our community – to give us a better place to learn, live and work,”

Barry Silverman said he and his wife were very flattered to receive this award.

“It is truly gratifying; especially since the prior recipients are such notable people,” he said.

Previous recipients include Guy Harvey, Joseph and Winifred Amatore and Wayne and Marti Huizenga.

“We are so honored to be able to help NSU grow and flourish,”

Silverman said. “It is so wonderful to see that the community is finally starting to notice how important NSU is.”

Silverman also advised students to enhance their education by learning and participating in the community.

“Personal growth as a student is very important,” he said. “The entire education experience is enhanced when a student participates in the activities beyond the classroom.”

The Silvermans are currently looking to integrate an engineering school at NSU. Silverman said this will help align the university’s future programs.

“The technology industry is rapidly growing, and being in South Florida, it’s important for NSU to support its students who work in this industry; students will be able to contribute their special talents to the community and advanced companies, in turn, those companies will be able to help support NSU,” Silverman said.

In addition to the community service award, the individuals who gave a million dollars or more to the university this year received a shark statue and became members

of the “shark circle. Their names will be engraved on the shark fins in Fellows Way, located between the Carl DeSantis Building and the Alvin Sherman Library.

“These individuals have donated their money to the university to afford scholarships and to attract and retain students so that they will, hopefully, offset their tuition costs,” Hanbury said.

Joseph Personelli, member of President’s 64, a group of student leaders who strengthen the relationship between NSU and its community, said he attended the Celebration of Excellence to be a liaison for the university to the donors.

“Anyone who is honored at this celebration is an outstanding supporter of the university,” Personelli, a junior biology major, said. “It’s just really great to be a part of this; the environment is just so positive and optimistic.”

Also a member of President’s 64, Timothy Bediako, sophomore biology major, said the Celebration of Excellence is a great opportunity for NSU to get exposure.

“It’s a great way for NSU to connect with the community, the individuals who donate to NSU and the Board of Trustees,” he said.

Bediako said he was impressed by the construction of the tent, which included glass doors, blue carpet, cushioned seats with sequined tablecloths and large TVs.

“I think it’s a great transformation; I saw the work in progress and to see that just a week ago all of this wasn’t here – what they made out of it is really cool,” he said. “I’m honored and blessed to have the opportunity to be here.”

Hanbury concluded his speech at the event by highlighting Vision 2020, which states that by 2020, through excellence and innovations in teaching, research, service and learning, NSU will be recognized and a premier university of quality and distinction.

“A part of Vision 2020 is to produce alumni who serve with integrity in their lives, fields of study and resulting careers. Giving back to the community and ultimately making this a better place to live and to be a leader is what this evening is all about,” Hanbury said. “The number one reason for the Celebration of Excellence is to appreciate the students and alumni this university produces.”

NEWS BRIEFS

STUEY auditions

The Division of Student Affairs is looking for a student host and creative team for the annual STUEY awards. Auditions will be held on Feb. 5 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Performance Theatre of the Don Taft University Center. Writers, actors and production managers are invited. To sign up, contact Special Events and Projects at specialprojects@nova.edu. The last day to sign up is Feb. 4 at 5 p.m. Those auditioning should come prepared to entertain with an improvisation, a song or a joke. Learn more about the STUEY awards at www.nova.edu/safspecialevents/stueys/.

Discover study abroad opportunities

NSU’s Office of International Affairs will host the Education Abroad Fair on Feb. 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Don Taft University Center Spine. The fair is for undergraduate students who are interested in study abroad and faculty-led travel programs. Information on funding opportunities and scholarship offerings will also be available. For more information, contact Associate Director of International Affairs Alejandra Parra at 954-262-7240 or aleparra@nova.edu.

Tools for Success Workshop

The Study Math Smarter not Harder workshop will take place Feb. 10 at 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. in the Carl DeSantis Building, Knight Auditorium. Join the Tutoring and Testing Center for an interactive workshop that will help you take deliberate actions to improve math confidence, performance and comprehension. For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Student Success at studentsuccess@nova.edu or call 954-262-8386.

Upcoming service trips

The next service trips will take place from Feb. 13 to 15 in Orlando and March 1 to 7 in New Orleans. For more information, contact the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement at slce@nova.edu or call 954-262-7195. Visit nova.edu/studentleadership/service/service-trips.html for more details.

Celebrating a pioneer

NSU will celebrate the life of Marilyn “Mickey” Segal, who passed away on Nov. 19. Segal was an author and an alumna of NSU’s second graduating class who supported NSU’s programs for children. A celebration of her life will be held Feb. 7 at 2 p.m. at the Epstein Performing Arts Center at the University School. The event will include performances by University School students and guest speakers including President George Hanbury. Attendees are asked to bring a book for children 5 and under, which will be donated to early childhood education centers around Broward County.

NSU TO HOST FIRST SEMI-ANNUAL COMMUTER WEEK

By: **Li Cohen**
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From Feb. 9 to Feb. 13, the Office of Orientation and Commuter Involvement will host the first semi-annual Commuter Week to bring commuter and residential students together.

Graduate Assistant for the Commuter Student Organization Nehemiah Chung said CSO got the idea for Commuter Week by seeing other schools host similar events.

“Hopefully, through Commuter

Week, we can provide an opportunity for commuter students to get involved and be engaged within the NSU community,” he said.

The week will kick off on Feb. 9 with a party in the Don Taft University Center Pit with free snacks and giveaways and a three-on-three basketball tournament in the RecPlex. Later events will include a commuter cab to transport commuters to their classes, lunch with commuter peer leaders, a general CSO meeting with free ice cream and a commuter lounge

with free food and giveaways.

Orientation Coordinator for Commuter Involvement Vanessa DuBoulay, sophomore political science major, planned the week of events and said she’s most excited for this week to be a new tradition for commuter students to feel appreciated at NSU.

“What we are ultimately trying to do is to show commuters that they can stay in school and feel comfortable, instead of just coming over for classes and then leaving,” she said. “We want them to be as attached to the school as

any other residential student would be.”

The events throughout the week are a compilation of events that CSO hosts throughout the semester. Although they are primarily aimed at commuter students, all of the events are open to residential students as well.

“We want to provide that NSU experience, whether you’re a residential or a commuter student, and students now have that opportunity to come together to help build that relationship,” Chung said.

Diary of... a future author

By: **Shanelle Grizzle**
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Shanelle Grizzle is a junior biology major from New York City who dreams of becoming a pharmacist. She is the event coordinator chair of NSU's Society of Anime, Gaming and Entertainment (SAGE) club and is currently writing two books, along with one Internet fanfiction that is in progress.

“What should I write next?”
That’s a question I always ask myself.

As a kid, I always had a great fondness for writing stories, and for as long as I can remember, I’ve always had a wide imagination. I’d think about any and everything, but I was always shy and quiet; I feared that others wouldn’t really understand what I was thinking, so I kept everything in my head to myself. But I didn’t like doing that. I wanted to share my thoughts. I’ve tried out many different kinds of creative things to try and express myself. The only creative outlet I found that still sticks with me today is writing.

I loved watching TV as a kid, especially cartoons. Every time I would watch an episode of



Shanelle Grizzle has a passion for writing fanfiction.

COURTESY OF S. GRIZZLE

my favorite shows, I would think, “Awesome! But what if it ended differently?” I would always think of different scenarios and send my favorite characters on new adventures. After thinking up so many different possibilities and not wanting to keep them all in my head, I decided to write them down.

I wanted to share what I’d

written with others, but I didn’t know how. One day, I stumbled upon a website called FanFiction.net, where fans of different movies, shows and other works of fiction write their versions of the characters’ stories — known as “fanfics” — and submit them for the world to see and review. I was so amazed by all of the different

stories I read, and it was wonderful to know that there were others like me who had the same “what if this happened instead” thoughts.

So on May 1, 2006, I officially registered an account on the website and created a pen name. Soon after, I submitted my first fanfic, a “Xiaolin Showdown” story. I loved sharing what I wrote because it made me happy to see that others appreciated my writing and even praised me for my ideas.

I won’t deny that I also received quite a bit of negative feedback at first. I was plagued by grammatical errors and such. Despite the negative reviews that sometimes made me delete some of my stories, my love for writing never died. I continued to write fanfics, and the chapter count for each of them grew to exceed 30 chapters. I even finished one at 88 chapters.

When I started high school, I stopped limiting myself to writing only fanfics of my favorite shows and started writing other types of short stories. By the time I was a senior in high school, I decided that I wanted to write more often, and, hopefully, publish a book, though I don’t plan to write professionally. I would use aspects of my daily life and things that I saw in

movies, video games and books as inspiration for my writing.

My close group of friends in New York is my biggest inspiration. Just as I would think “Hey, what if this happened instead?” whenever I would watch my favorite shows, I would have that same thought whenever we would all hang out. In fact, one of the current books I’m writing, titled “Team Spice,” is based on my friend group and the thought “What if we were superheroes?” I want to use this book not only to show the world my creative side but also to show the love that I have for my friends.

As for other books and other types of stories I plan to write in the future, I want whatever I write to have some sort of meaning. In addition to showing others my creativity, I want to also help others and hopefully teach important life lessons.

Although I am not an English major, and I do not plan to pursue writing as a career, my passion for writing will never die and will always be a part of me. As long as I can think, I will continue to write. Whenever I have an idea that I want to share, I will always use my words.

The only thing is that you will have to read them.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN SOUTH FLORIDA

By: **Faren Rajkumar**
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We students have busy lives and don’t always have the time to acknowledge the events of the past or our distant cultural ties. But February is Black History Month and it’s the ideal time to connect with an important part of America’s history and origin.
South Florida’s own diverse culture has been greatly influenced by the rich culture of African Americans. These are some ways for college students to celebrate Black History Month in the community through art, music, food and local volunteer work.

Meet author Donna Washington

On Feb. 5 at 4 p.m., award-winning author and multicultural folklorist Donna Washington will visit West Dade Regional Library for a reading and meet and greet. She has written several books, including “The Story of Kwanzaa” and “A Pride of African Tales.” Admission is free. Call the library at 305-553-1134 for more information.

Color All Around exhibit

From Feb. 1 to March 31, 42 original cut-paper collages by artist Ajoa Burrowes will be on display in the Main Library Auditorium in Miami. Burrowes’ colorful pieces feature organic shapes and angular forms unique to her acclaimed style. Admission is free. For more information, contact the library at 305-375-2665.

African arts and crafts

Miami Beach Regional Library is hosting a session of Batik, the ancient African method of dyeing and decorating clothing, on Feb. 7 at 11 a.m. Admission is free, but



During Black History Month, South Florida is host to many events celebrating African American culture, including Ankara Miami Inc.’s African Fashion Week.

COURTESY OF ANKARAMIAMI.COM

registration is required. Call the library at 305-535-4219 to register and for more information.

South Florida’s First African Fashion Week

Ankara Miami Inc., dedicated to “redefining African cultural trends,” will present their first annual African Fashion Week in Miami from Feb. 19 to 22. Their events will feature established and emerging designers from the Caribbean, Africa and the U.S., highlighting both trends in African apparel. For ticket information and a detailed schedule of events, visit anakramiami.com.

African stories under the stars

On Feb. 24 at 7 p.m., award-winning storytellers Donna Washington and Judith Black and musician Teri Catlin will present “Moonlight Tales” in the Main Library Plaza in Fort Lauderdale. Admission is free. For more information, visit broward.org/library.

Black Tech Week at Miami Dade College

From Feb. 23 to 28, the college’s North Campus will host a week-long

series of events celebrating African-American technological innovators. Local and global venture capitalists, grassroots activists and startup founders will present and participate in mixers with attendees and host a “community hackathon.” For ticket prices, search “Black Tech Week” on eventbrite.com.

Caribbean stories and rhythms

On Feb. 21 at 3 p.m., Norma Darby of the Jamaican Folk Revue will lead an interactive storytelling and music making session, featuring tales from plantation life and Caribbean musical influences. The event is hosted by the Miami-Dade County Public Library’s Homestead branch. Admission is free. For more information, call 305-246-0168.

Tour guides needed at Black History Museum

The Spady Cultural Heritage Museum in Delray Beach is seeking volunteer tour guides to lead group tours of the city’s only Black history museum. Volunteers must attend a training workshop and also assist with setting up exhibits. To volunteer or for more information, contact Clarice Redding at creddin3@fau.edu.

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: LINDA SOBELL

By: **Faren Rajkumar**
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Psychology professor Linda Sobell’s initial interest in the subject she now teaches at NSU also happens to be the beginning of a true love story.

At age 19, during her pre-med undergraduate studies at the University of California, Sobell was struggling in a human learning course when her professor suggested that she meet with a graduate psychology student for tutoring. She heeded her professor’s advice, but her first tutoring session with the student took an unexpected turn. They talked through the entire night and into the early morning about everything – everything except her psychology assignment. Before she left that night, the graduate student, Mark Sobell, asked her to marry him.

“It was very much a love-at-first-sight thing,” Sobell said. “I told him yes the next day.”

Sobell also changed her major to psychology soon after, and in both her career path and in love, she never looked back.

She went on to earn a master’s degree in social sciences and a Ph.D. in psychology, both from the University of California where her husband also completed his studies.

Sobell is a licensed psychologist, and her work focuses on addictive behaviors, such as drinking, smoking and gambling. She and her husband direct NSU’s Guided Self-Change Clinic, a specialty program at the Psychological Services Center. The Sobells established this unique method of “motivational cognitive-behavioral treatment” in 1984 and implement it at the clinic to help students manage their addictions.

“At first, we used to see a lot of down and out folks and adult problem-drinkers,” Sobell said. “But now we see more young students who have binge-drinking problems who didn’t realize they had such a big problem.”

She said she also sees students setting and achieving goals for everything from improving bad sleep habits to reducing excessive Internet use, which are seldom considered unhealthy habits in a college setting.

Sobell is also associate director of clinical training at NSU’s Center for Psychological Studies and has written eight books on various topics in psychology. Her favorite publication is her most recent one: “Group Therapy with Substance Use Disorders: A Motivational Cognitive-Behavioral Approach.”

“It’s a more clinical, hands-on book telling people how to run groups, which are daunting because it’s not just one person you’re trying to help — it’s six or eight people, and you have to manage all the parts and personalities,” Sobell said. “I used to hate groups, but after writing the book, I love them.”

Sobell never intended to write so many books and publish more than 280 papers and articles; research and medical practice were her initial career goals.

She said, “I never wanted to be a writer, and I actually had to take extra English courses in college because my writing wasn’t very good.”

But after her first research article went through 36 revisions, she learned to embrace the editing process, and she enjoys the work leading up to the final product.

Because of her many achievements, Sobell was awarded the President’s Distinguished Professor Award of Excellence in 2014 for her significant contributions to research, scholarship and instruction. Some of her other awards include the Betty Ford Award, awards from Cambridge Hospital and Harvard Medical School and the



Linda Sobell is a professor and associate director of clinical training at the Center for Psychological Studies
COURTESY OF L. SOBELL

Shepard Science Award for the most outstanding peer-reviewed research paper on prevention and control.

In addition to researching, writing, teaching and directing the clinic at NSU, Sobell and her husband do everything together, including playing racquetball, raising orchids and bonsai trees at home, taking gourmet cooking classes and spending time with their daughters.

Both of Sobell’s children work in the health industry; one is a pediatrician specializing in obesity,

and the other works in public health promoting healthy eating. Because of this, she’s had the opportunity to work professionally with her daughters, who also happen to be her best friends.

Sobell and her husband have both been accused of being workaholics, but because she loves her chosen field, she doesn’t envision retirement any time soon.

“All these years haven’t felt like work,” Sobell said. “If it became work, I think I would stop.”



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FAFSA TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS

By: **Jazmyn Brown**
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The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2015-2016 academic year opened Jan. 1 for students to apply for state and federal financial aid.

Financial aid counselor Samuel Reasee II said that the earlier the FAFSA is completed, the better. NSU’s priority deadline for the FAFSA is April 15.

“One of the things we do is look at when you completed your FAFSA. If you complete your FAFSA in July, the odds of you getting some additional money are very slim because most of that money runs out in March, at the latest,” Reasee said.

Financial aid counselor Katie Credle agreed.

“A lot of its first come, first serve. Even if you got it in before the priority deadline, we’ve had a waitlist that started in the middle of January,” she said.

Credle said the FAFSA is the main way to receive financial aid, and it’s the only way to get federal money, the main source of financial aid. To complete the FAFSA, Credle recommends students have last year’s W-2 forms ready and that the students coordinate with their parents to complete the application.

“I always tell students that if they haven’t filed their taxes yet, or if they’re parents haven’t filed, that’s OK. Just use estimated information, and then go back and update it, once you’ve filed,” she said. “I don’t advocate for students to try to guess because, legally, the student cannot input the parents’ PIN to sign; so I think the parents and students should [try to] sit together and make sure all the information is accurate. It leads to fewer errors, and you don’t have to update quite as much when you go back in.”

Credle said after finishing the FAFSA, students should keep checking SharkMail for updates and alerts about their financial aid status.

“We primarily communicate using SharkMail, and students need to keep checking because any documents that are missing, we’re going to tell you [about them through SharkMail]. There could be verification issues where we might require some tax or citizenship documents,” she said. “We’re not going to call you, you’re going to need to check your account.”

An application specific to NSU students is the State Aid application, which both Credle and Reasee said is the only way to get certain grants, specifically the Florida Student Access Grant (FSAG) and Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG).

“When people hear financial aid, they just think loans, and that’s not true,” Credle said. “There is the Florida Student Access Grant and Florida Resident Access Grant; for those, we need the State Aid application [along with a valid FAFSA].”

Credle said the only difference in award amount for students with an independent financial status is that a higher loan limit is allowed. They must also file their own taxes, if they are required to do so.

“As an independent student, you are eligible for a higher loan limit per year; freshman independents can get about two grand more per year,” she said. “The FAFSA will only look at the student’s income, as opposed to the parent and the student’s combined.”

Reasee said graduate students only receive loans after completing a bachelor’s degree.

“For a grad student, you’re not going to get any Pell grants, freebies, anything like that. Once you have your bachelor’s degree, you’re considered a graduate or professional student, so most of the things you’re going to get are loans, up to \$138,500,” Reasee said. “If you are a health professions student, it’ll be up to \$224,000 that you can receive for your entire education, including undergraduate studies.”

Reasee also said while the FAFSA and State Aid application are the main sources of financial aid, there are other outside resources for receiving help.

“Your local church, your local social services, boys and girls clubs and places like that — you can actually go to and apply for financial aid,” he said. “But the FAFSA is your main way to get your federal monies to have at the university to pay for tuition, books and fees.”

For more outside scholarships, both counselors suggest visiting NSU’s financial aid webpage and going to the library and Barnes and Noble, as well as visiting free online resources.

The FAFSA can be completed by visiting www.fafsa.gov.



Career Corner

Trust the Process: The art of job searching

By: **Emilio Lorenzo**
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Searching for a job or an internship can be a job on its own and at times can seem like a process filled with roadblocks when employers do not reach back out to you for an interview.

So how do you manage the job search and stay motivated when you are not receiving feedback that could lead to a potential opportunity? The key is for you to trust the process which means taking the proper approach in the job search to market yourself effectively and being confident that you are taking all the necessary steps to reach your career goals.

The question then becomes “How do you ensure you are taking the proper steps in the job search so that you can just trust the process?” Well it first starts with evaluating how you have you gone about the search thus far. That includes looking over your resume, cover letter, networking approaches and overall resources being used to uncover potential opportunities. Your professional documents such as your resume and cover letter are your marketing tools; you must ensure that they are catered specifically to your field and are tweaked based on the job description obtained.

You always hear that employers only look at a resume for about 15 seconds, which means you have to be strategic in getting their attention. This is why if you structure your resume and cover letter by highlighting experiences relevant to the position and details on how you have developed transferable skills needed for this opportunity, then you are more likely to be called for an interview. A good question to ask you is, “If I were the hiring manager for this

position, what would I be looking for in applicant?” Then read your documents to see if the areas you identified were showcased on your resume or cover letter. If you are unable to find them on your documents, you need to ask yourself if you would hire yourself for that position.

It is tedious to change your resume based on the job, but remember this also sends a message to the employer that you are passionate about the opportunity and have a strong work ethic as not everyone would be taking such a strategic approach in the application process. In addition, by writing detailed cover letters for each opportunity, you will create an avenue to tell you story, which the resume does not offer because it is not written in narrative format and is more focused on just stating what you have done. The cover letter connects what you have done to what the employer needs from this position and explaining how you can bring value to their organization.

You also must stay organized during the job search and be prepared to take a proactive approach in meeting with employers. Let’s say you start the job search on Monday and apply to about five to seven positions a day. By the end of the week, that list of potential jobs is pretty extensive, which can be a problem if you do not organize yourself accordingly. How embarrassing would it be to answer an employer’s phone call and confusing the organization for another job you applied to earlier that week?

A great way to organize your job search is to create an Microsoft Excel document where you can have multiple

columns including jobs applied, name of employer, date applied, company website URL, link to job description, and even a date to follow up with the employer, which should be at least 7 business days after applying. This approach not only makes the job search easier but will also help you avoid any confusion with employers or applications submitted.

You do not want to spend the entire job search process applying to jobs as they appear. As a professional, you must take a proactive approach to uncover what some in the industry describe as the hidden job market. Make a hit list of companies you would love to work for and begin reaching out strategically to these professionals. One way of being proactive in the job search is conducting what’s commonly known as an informational interview. An informational interview is a strategic way of gaining valuable information about a certain profession, while networking with employers. Another option to be proactive in the job search is attending a conference or career fair, a great way to interact and network with professionals, share experiences and position yourself for potential opportunities, as long as you’re prepared, confident and know how to best tackle the experience.

Overall, the job search can be filled with road blocks and can seem discouraging at times. But if you continuously take all the necessary steps to market yourself effectively and proactively and engage employers through a variety of avenues, you will need to trust the process that will lead to you reaching your career goals.

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Wellness Bite

“When it is cooler outside, we tend to feel less thirsty. Don’t forget to fill up that water bottle and come to your workout hydrated. If you are dehydrated, your workout will be more challenging; you may feel more tired and hungry.” — Lourdes Perez, group exercise instructor and personal trainer

Coach’s Corner

Yanique Booth

By: **Randa Djabri**
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If you can walk, you have to run track. That’s what growing up in Jamaica was like for Yanique Booth, assistant track and field and cross country coach.

“From a very young age, they’ve instilled in us that we can be anything we want to be. I remember thinking to myself, what else would I want to do except teach other people the things that I’ve learned so they can be better than I am,” said Booth.

Booth, a Florida Atlantic University graduate specializes in coaching sprints, hurdles and relays and also plays a major role in recruiting. Booth joined the NSU team during August of 2011after as a coach at St. Andrews High School in Boca Raton for two seasons, where she worked with high school track athletes on flexibility and strength and conditioning.

“I was a former collegiate hurdler and I also ran track and field after completing college. I enjoyed the sport so much. I was a sprint hurdler and I ran the 400 meters as well,” said Booth.

Booth had remarkable achievements at her alma mater FAU. She set the conference record in the 55-meter hurdles and left her mark on the Sunbelt Conference. She held eight school records and was a four-time NCAA regional qualifier in the hurdles and received the FAU award for

most outstanding athlete. “I’m very industrious. I believe that hard work and dedication will get you where you need to be; and that is my motto in life,” said Booth.

Booth’s experience in sprints and hurdles is not only considered professional but international as well. The former top-10 ranked hurdler competed in several locations including Asia, the Caribbean and North America. While making her debut on the professional scene, Booth was under the guidance of several former Olympians and world-known Usain Bolt coaching staff. During that time, she earned recognition in the IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation) world-ranking for the hurdles. She was also a finalist in the 2009 World Championship Trials. She later moved on to become a National Representative at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, India and the CAC (Central American Championships) games in Puerto Rico.

At NSU, Booth helped guide the track and field program to its first ever top-10 ranking on the NCAA Division II national list and a third-place finish for both the men’s and women’s teams at the Peach Belt Conference Championship.

Being an outdoor person made Booth perfect for coaching along with her passion to share her experience with growing athletes and continue the tradition of successful

and competitive sprinting. “I was lucky as an athlete; I had the opportunity to work with great people and great mentors. I felt that coaching would be a perfect career for me because I had a lot to give. I thought that it would only make sense to go into this career and teach what I learned.

Underneath her toughness as a coach, Booth is a caring person. Her mind and door are always open to accommodate to her athletes’ needs.

“That’s the biggest thing you can have as a coach, them knowing that I care about them as people and as athletes,” said Booth.

Track and Field provides a window of learning and exploration that fulfills Booth’s love for the sport. When Booth isn’t on the Track she just likes to relax or travel to different places.

“I just like a good bottle of coconut water and I love to learn about different cultures,” said Booth.

When it comes to attitude, Booth believes that having a positive frame of mind is critical to the sport. This applies to both the athletes and the coach.

“I think that the ‘I can, I will, I must’ frame of mind is essential especially for the athletes because they have a rigorous schedule and it just won’t work out if they don’t have the positive attitude it takes to attack things the right way,” said Booth.

Booth attests that coaches are not meant to limit their



Booth continues to strive in helping guide both the men’s and women’s track and cross country programs to be the best-known nationally and internationally.

athletes’ capacities but rather to expand them as their capacities are unlimited. It’s important that coach also serves as a role model, particularly Booth since her hardworking and motivating qualities comply with that.

“I’m industrious, hardworking and motivating. I also like to give them the opportunity to be themselves and be free spirited, not as if they were confined to a box of limited capacities because their capacities are unlimited,” said Booth.

Motivating athletes is one of the toughest jobs coaches need to accomplish and maintain throughout their careers. Speeches are Booth’s way to go about motivation.

“I am a woman with very few words, I kind of do by my actions. But I think that sometimes we kind of adopt words as coached and I tend to do a little bit of Martin Luther King speeches sometimes. I also use a lot of comparison to motivate them,” said Booth.

Booth’s share of the

motivation comes naturally from her passion for the sport.

“By enjoying what you do you’ll get the only motivation you’ll need. I get those days where I get tired but when I think of the fact that other coaches and athletes are out there, I don’t want them to lose an edge,” said Booth. “That in itself motivates me and at the end of the day when success is achieved at any level, I enjoy seeing that too.”

As for future goals, Booth has a short term goal of continuing to have a successful program and a long term goal of becoming the leader of her program.

“I’m taking strides toward my goals; hopefully I can be the best coach that I can be to each of these athletes. Whatever it is I’m hoping that I’ll be able to give the right attributes to them and 10 years from now I will continue to be successful at what I do,” said Booth.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: Lorena Spaulding

By: **Randa Djabri**
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Lorena Spaulding lives her life between the intensity of playing softball and the thrill of wanting to become a cop.

Spaulding, a senior criminal justice major and substance abuse minor, started playing baseball at age 9 and then started playing softball a year later. She also played travel ball and played for the Dominican national team.

Growing up, Spaulding went on to attend Hollywood Christian Academy for high school, where she played softball and basketball for four years and ran track for one. She batted .678, scored 24 runs, and stole 20 bases as a senior and was selected as the All-Broward and All-State teams that year.

As a freshman at NSU, Spaulding played a total of 54 games and was selected to the All-SSC Second-Team as an outfielder. Her junior year, she was third on the team in batting average with .331 in addition to leading the team with 31 runs that season. She was also second on the team with 43 hits.

Losing her father to a drunk driver has been Spaulding’s motive to pursue her dream of becoming a police woman.

“After losing my dad in the accident I wanted to be able to help others in different situations like this,” said Spaulding.

After college, Spaulding plans to continue playing with the Dominican team and to get into the police academy.

I got the chance to sit down with Spaulding and ask her some questions.

What’s your favorite thing about softball?
“It’s having fun with team mates, it’s the little things it’s like a sister hood. It’s not about you, it’s about having everyone there for you.”



Spaulding is a senior and plans to play softball for the Dominican team. COURTESY OF E. CANAL

What’s your favorite part of the game?
“It’s the moment I put on the uniform and get on the field. It’s game time, I’m ready to be crazy.”

Who’s your favorite softball player?
“I would have to go with Natasha Watley.”

What’s your most memorable playing?
“I would say when we won the RBI award series with the Dominican team in 2012.”

If a movie were to be made about your life, who would you want to play your role?
“Michelle Rodriguez.”

What made you decide to play for NSU?
“It’s a great school and great coaches. I like the way they run the program and that it’s all about hard work and dedication. That really encouraged me to come.”

Do you have any other hobbies?
“I’m a boring person, school work and softball.”

What aspect of softball do you think makes it different from other sports?
“That’s a hard question, I would say maybe in general just being a woman sport, the thing it lacks as a woman’s sport is having more people attend the games. Males always

What’s your favorite part of the game?
“I do. Carly, one of my team mates has to put my bow on and she has to put glitter on my

eye black, while Megan put my eye black.



ON THE BENCH

Commentary by: **Jazmyn Brown**

In sports like tennis and golf, it’s hard to not pin the blame on the individual who loses. Team sports are a bit different because winning and losing are dependent on so many different factors – from players’ personalities to home court advantages, and even luck. But most importantly, it depends on coaches.

It’s almost instinctive to say that most of the accountability should be on the players when it comes to how well the team performs. But “team performance” implies that it’s a team effort, and all teams are led by team captains and coaches, whose job it is to help their players perform the best they can.

Coaching is a job. Anyone who’s a supervisor or in a managerial position is responsible for getting the most out of their employees. Likewise, coaches are responsible for their players, and if they aren’t doing their job, then they shouldn’t be a coach. If 10 years have passed, and the team still sucks, then they should probably look into finding a new coach.

Sports are a direct competition; its hands on, and each team is trying to accomplish the same thing. So without an effective leader, they’ll lose every time.

When any general manager or team owner wants to dismiss a coach, they have a lot to consider. A coach can’t be evaluated based on the number of wins and losses alone; there a lot of variables that have to be looked at before making a decision.

When judging a coach to determine if they’re doing their job, you have to look for positive things that they’re doing.

These things are often not readily apparent, especially with sports, where team dynamics are always in flux. The biggest things are the athletes’ effort and how they respond to the coach. Whether or not the athletes are giving their all is more important than winning or losing.

Athlete competitiveness and effort on the field are the biggest indication of how well a coach is doing. If the team is trying and keeps showing effort, eventually they’ll turn it around. As for practicing and working hard — it’s the coach’s job to get them to do that.

Another thing about coaches is that they have to deal with a lot of personalities. Players’ personalities heavily influence how well a team can work as a unit, and coaches have to be able to learn to work with that. Coaching can be as complicated as being a parent in a really big family, and some major and minor slipups will be made.

What is often the case is that team owners don’t give coaches enough time to find their rhythm. If there’s no instant gratification of consecutive wins, they’re fired. Coaches need time to change things, especially if a team wasn’t that great from their previous coaching. It takes a while to develop a team that’s cohesive, efficient and championship-worthy.

Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross didn’t fire Coach Joe Philbin. Despite the Dolphins’ not-so-great record under him, every year he’s there, there are small improvements in team performance. A lot of people may dislike him because of his decisions, but he makes up for it by taking

his time. It doesn’t take one or two years to get to the Super Bowl; it takes years of patience and fine-tuning, especially when a coach has been with a team for a short time; Philbin has been with the Dolphins for three years. Dolphins quarterback Ryan Tannehill, who has also been with the team for the past three years, is excited that Philbin is staying to coach for the 2015 season.

A coach’s job is to produce results: their athletes putting on winning performances, regardless of the sport. The caveat is that they have to be given time to do so. The Miami Heat has been plagued by injuries this season, starting with LeBron James’ departure. The team brought in new players, but now they have to deal with injuries, which play an important part of sports. They dictate who plays in the game, and they’re something coaches can’t foresee or control. Josh McRoberts, power forward, played well in the Heat’s first five games, but is now out for the rest of the season due to a knee injury. Shooting guard Dwayne Wade is the poster child for sports-related injuries and, Danny Granger, small forward, suffered as well. But the Heat are still in the playoffs, mainly because their coach, Erik Spoelstra, is doing a great job with the team, remaining patient and pushing forward. But who wins the Finals four years in a row anyway? No one.

In short, yes, coaches are responsible for how well their players perform; after all, it’s in their job description. But what you mean by “well” has to be the level of effort shown by the players, not an arbitrary number of wins and losses.

have the big large crowds. When you go to a women’s game you don’t see a lot of people”

If you could play any other sport at NSU what would it be?
“I would play basketball for sure.”

If you could travel anywhere in the world where would you go?
“Probably Paris, to relax and have fun; I’ve always been from Miami and haven’t really gotten the chance to see anywhere else.”

When’s a time you felt most proud of yourself?
“It was when I first came to college because I’m the first one in my family to go to college.”

How do you celebrate winning?
“By dancing and going crazy with the girls and coaches, specially coach, she busts a move in the middle of the circle.”

How do you deal with losing?
“It’s more of an eye opener. Coach is very good with keeping up positive even when we lose. It helps up progressively become better.

Do you feel that your coaches influenced you?
“Yes, coach Bonée and coach Martin for sure, in more ways than one. If I ever needed anything or whenever I needed advice about anything in life I would go to them and they would tell me from their experiences and perspectives. They’re more than coaches.”

What’s your favorite position to play?
“Center field. I would say short stop but I don’t want to embarrass myself.”

ON DECK

BASEBALL
vs. Southern New Hampshire
NSU Baseball Complex
Feb. 13, 6 p.m.

MEN’S BASKETBALL
vs. Barry University
NSU Arena
Feb. 14, 4 p.m.

vs. Rollins College
NSU Arena
Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m.

MEN’S GOLF
Matlock Invitational
Lakeland, FL
Feb. 9 and 10, all day

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
vs. Barry University
NSU Arena
Feb. 14, 2 p.m.

vs. Rollins College
NSU Arena
Feb. 18, 5:30 p.m.

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vs. University of Alabama-
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Huntsville, ALA
Feb. 12, 2 p.m.

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TAKEN BY A. DIMARIA

By: **Alyssa DiMaria**

To the college students lacking money and wanting food, I present to you, RACKS Fish House + Oyster Bar, located in Delray Beach – pushing the envelope of culinary creativity, resulting in a unique menu, an enjoyable atmosphere and exquisite experiences.

RACKS catches and releases an ocean-to-table menu that excites and inspires, offering an array of delectable food for under \$10 during its happy hour every day of the week, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

I’m unsure if it was the hand-painted brick walls, the vivid raw bar or the lush seating paired with nautically-inspired tables – but I was in a party mood. The \$1 clams and oysters were a lesson in how to mingle, the parmesan truffle fries showed how to be the life of the party, and the shells and cheese demonstrated when it was time to go home, because it wasn’t the most pleasant meal.

The raw clams and oysters were pleasant, nothing overbearing – not too salty. The clams were light, almost fluffy and very tender. They didn’t have that “fishy” taste most people dread. There was something sublime about the feel of the oysters on my tongue and that burst of flavor and sweetness I got when I began to chew. It was a pleasant bite, and it was nice to meet it, but it was no French fry.

And how could it be? The parmesan truffle fries were exciting and bold. From outside in, the fries had a warm and crunchy coating with

sprinkles of shredded parmesan cheese. The smooth potato inside exploded through. The walloping taste hit my palate with a lasting, rich garlic flavor.

And that’s sort of what happened with the shells and cheese. This type of dish is my weakness, my downfall, my absolute comfort food, which ultimately set my expectations high. My mouth instantly began to water when I saw “shells and cheese with goldfish crumbs” listed on the menu. I ordered, and as I sat patiently, I dreamed of the rich and creamy cheese sauce. But when the bowl finally approached the table, I was disappointed by the sight of it. It looked like one big cloud of cheese; I could barely see the shells or even the goldfish crumbs.

As I dipped my fork in and lifted it to my salivating lips, there was a great depth of flavor, thanks to the two kinds

of cheese. It was average, but nothing more. It seemed that the cheese and goldfish crumbs did not mingle well.

The happy hour menu is filled with many more options: fish tacos, tuna tar tar, Creole styled calamari, crab cakes and the list goes on. Keep in mind, all of this is under \$10.

Creative in design, concept and menu, RACKS incorporates beloved classics with the modern style and appetite of South Florida. The food arrived quickly, the waiter was friendly, and the restaurant was clean and bright. RACKS is not afraid to be bold and being bold makes for a good party.

RACKS is located at 5 Southeast Second Avenue in Delray Beach. RACKS also has a location in Mizner Park in Boca Raton in 402 Plaza Real, but with a different happy hour menu and times.



TAKEN BY A. DIMARIA

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NSU STREET STYLE

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Name: Taylor Blackwell

Year: Freshman

Major: Chemistry

What inspired your outfit today?

“I have a meeting with Career Development, so I wanted to look nice, but not over the top. I also wanted to match my nails and favorite necklace.”



Name: Margarita Lovinska

Year: Freshman

Major: Math and Entrepreneurship

What inspired your outfit today?
“Cozy.”

Name: Caitlyn Seavey

Year: Freshman

Major: Biology

What inspired your outfit today?
“Kylie Jenner.”



IT’S “RAGTIME”



"Ragtime" the musical is playing now at the Miracle Theater.

PHOTO CREDITS: [HTTP://CHICAGOCRITIC.COM](http://chicagocritic.com)

By: **Destinee A. Hughes**
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Based on E.L Doctorow’s award-winning book, “Ragtime,” the musical, has once again captivated us with its timeless intrigue. Playing from Jan. 28 to Feb. 22 at the Miracle Theater in Coral Gables, this musical portrays the powerful tale of the lives of an upper-class Caucasian family, an African American couple and European immigrants in the early 20th century. I had the pleasure of speaking with Sarah Nicole Batts, who plays the role of Sarah. Here’s what Batts had to say about this award-winning musical and her career.

What is “Ragtime” about?
“From the perspective of my character, Sarah is a young lady who lives in Harlem, New York, and she falls in love with Coalhouse Walker Jr., who’s basically the main character of the musical. It’s the time of the century when the Harlem Renaissance and ragtime music were all black people in America had. Coalhouse and Sarah end up together, and they have a baby, but Coalhouse is a bit of a rolling stone. He’s into his music and his women, so they break up. He finds her again, and he actually settles down and decides that he wants to dedicate his life to making a better life for his child, the

American dream. That’s where all the conflict comes in because he’s a black man, and there are race problems and class problems. There are basically three sets of people; there are the upper-class white people, in New Rochelle, there are the immigrants who’ve come from Ellis Island, and then there are the black people in Harlem who are basically starting new lives after being slaves for years. It’s a really cool story. It’s actually very similar to the kind of things that are going on now.”

Have you learned a lot about race relations playing the role of Sarah?
“Yes and no. My heritage is not

American. I was born in Jamaica, so it’s a little bit of different histories, West Indian History and American history. But the root similarities are very much the same. I don’t have ancestors who were a part of the Harlem Renaissance. I grew up here, so I know about it, and I know what it did for this country. So it’s a little bit yes and no. I’m a black woman in America right now, so I’m pretty aware of the racial tensions that around us. But it’s not like I can say this story could have word for word happened to someone in my family. It could have, but it would have been in Jamaica. It hasn’t made me more aware. I was already aware, but it’s made me more passionate about bringing all of these issues to the forefront of people’s minds.”

Are you able to relate with your character?

“Definitely. I have not had a child, so I can’t relate that way. But I do have a goddaughter and a little brother, so I know what it is to love someone like that. I’ve definitely been in love, so her relationship with Coalhouse, I definitely get. Her character is a little hard to swallow. She buries her child alive, but when you realize why she did it and are aware of all of the things that were going on during the time that she was living, you begin to have empathy for her, not really understand her, but you can say ‘OK, that must have been really tough for a single black mom in the 1900s. You don’t have any money. You’re a washer woman. You probably thought the child would be better off dead.’”

How long have you been singing and performing?
“All my life. I started singing in a children’s choir when I was maybe

8 or 9, then I went to a magnet middle school, New World High School and a conservatory for undergrad. I got my undergraduate and graduate degrees in music, so I’ve been singing for a while.”

Does anyone in your family sing?
“My grandmother used to sing. Her actual profession is nursing, so she didn’t really do it as a profession. But my family is pretty musical; my brother has a degree in percussion, and my dad used to play in a well-known band in Jamaica. My mom is the only one who is not very musical.”

How do you train your voice to sing for so long during performances?
“I guess it’s just as you grow and train your [voice] muscle because the voice is a muscle. So as you train it over time, it adapts to gain the stamina that it needs to be able to sustain a musical or opera or whatever. You have to take care of it and warm it up, just as you would if you were a ballet dancer.”

Do you ever get nervous performing? If so, what do you do to calm yourself down?
“Definitely. I haven’t really found anything that works. You just kind of know that that’s what happens. Once you get on the stage, it goes away. It’s a part of the job, at least for me. I know some people who don’t get nervous, but I have awful nerves.”

What else would you like people to know about your character?
“I would like people to know that Sarah could be anyone of the people in the audience. She doesn’t have the best of luck in the show, but the things that happen to her could happen to anyone. Also, I think she’s a pretty resilient character; except for her relationship with Coalhouse, she’s pretty tough.”

DISNEY LOVE GETS A DOSE OF REALITY

By: **Jazmyn Brown**
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Spoiler alert If you haven’t seen “Brave,” “Frozen,” “Maleficent” or “Into the Woods,” beware!
It seems that Valentine’s Day chocolates and teddy bears have been on display since before the winter holidays were even over. Now, it’s officially that time of year again — tis the season for romance.
But, our typical definition of love is changing thanks in part to Disney and their focus on family, the theme that is replacing Disney’s stereotypical love-at-first-sight-happily-ever-after romance M.O.
The fairy-tale romance that every girl dreams of is something Disney helped give life to, but now, it seems they are taking a more realistic look at what love really is, with films like “Brave,” “Frozen,” “Maleficent” and “Into the Woods.”
“Mulan” is an earlier example of this transition. Not a princess in the literal sense, but a Disney princess nonetheless, Mulan acts out of duty to her country, but also acts out of duty to her heart. Somewhere between dishonoring her family, pretending to be a man and saving China from

the Huns, she falls right into Shang’s arms. The distinguishing factor between her and previous Disney royalty is not her common bloodline, but that she does the saving – of an entire country, no less. But she still gets the guy.
Disney’s recent movies with strong and independent female lead characters are further proof than “Mulan” that girls don’t need saving. And when they do, it’s not at the hands of a handsome prince, but through none other than familial love.
In “Brave,” there isn’t a whisper of a love interest for Merida, who rebels against being a proper princess, preferring her bow and arrow to the demands of royalty. Unsurprisingly, she is deeply upset by her duty to marry, and after a fight with her mother Elinor, she makes a wish that her mother will change, and she does – into a ferocious bear.
As a bear, it’s impossible for Elinor to maintain her queenly composure, and she learns to let loose a little. She encourages Merida to take a stand and say that she will choose when she’s ready to marry. After times runs out to undo Elinor’s curse, Merida apologizes for ruining their relationship, and the

curse is undone. “Brave” shows that the unconditional love between mother and child, the power of forgiveness and the acceptance of family, flaws and all, are stronger than any curse.
“Frozen” is probably the most well-known example of female lead characters putting family over romantic love. This movie shows girls that love at first sight can be used as a weapon of mass destruction and manipulation. Hans is the handsome, too-good-to-be-true prince who woos naïve Anna within the first thirty minutes of the movie, eventually revealing himself as the villain of the tale with his plan to conquer Arendelle.
In order to save Elsa from Hans, and in spite of her freezing heart, Anna choses to sacrifice herself instead of kissing Kristoff, an act of true love that could reverse the cold spell inside her. But Anna did commit an act of true love; she jumped between knife-wielding Hans and saved her sister’s life. “Frozen proves that not all true love has to be romantic, nor do you need a man to save yourself; family is your first true love.
“Maleficent” tells the story of Sleeping Beauty with a spin and from, you guessed it, Maleficent’s point of

view. We learn that she cursed King Stefan’s daughter because he betrayed her love and took her wings as a trophy to win the kingdom, and afterwards, she watches over the princess, protecting her from the harms of the world. “Maleficent” does more to raise the child than her actual guardians, Flittle, Thistlewit and Knotgrass, three fairies who haven’t the foggiest idea how to take care of a little girl.
As Maleficent’s little “Beastie” gets older, she lets the girl visit her fairy world, and the notorious Disney villain reluctantly becomes her fairy godmother. She tries undoing the spinning wheel curse that will put Aurora in a deep sleep because she knows a man’s “true love” can’t save her. Once the curse takes effect, a prince’s kiss doesn’t save Aurora; it’s Maleficent’s love that revives her. “Maleficent” is incredibly touching and changes your perspective on heroes, villains, kings, princes, true love and most importantly, the loving bond between a princess and her fairy godmother.
Disney’s most recent venture into dismantling its own vision of fairy-tale love is “Into the Woods,” which spins together the tales of Jack and the

Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella and Rapunzel, along with the Baker and his wife. Cinderella, who always dreamt of something outside of the clutches of her evil stepmother and ugly stepsisters, comes to realize that having a handsome prince by your side is not all that it’s cracked up to be, especially when she has to pretend to be someone other than herself.
After marrying her prince and finding out he was unfaithful from some little birds, Cinderella leaves him and goes her own independent way. After the Baker’s wife dies, the Baker decides to take on the role of being a better father than his own father. After slaying the giant and his mother’s death, Jack and Little Red have nowhere to go, so the Baker and his son, Cinderella, Jack and Little Red make a ragtag family of their own, not by blood, but through shared experience.
Real life is less often a happily ever after than Disney would originally have you believe. And more often than not, following your heart can lead you straight back to family – Disney’s new perspective on true love. And while romantic love is important, don’t forget to show some love to the people who loved you first.

NON-WHITE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ARE LEGITIMATE

By: **Jazmyn Brown**

The notion of being American has always been a joke to me because when we say “American,” we often forget it’s not just North America that counts. There’s an entire continent that escapes our notice. When it comes to our history, we also have the tendency to gloss over what we did to the natives to finally settle as our own country in 1776.

Texas used to belong to Mexico, and yet we continually profile Mexicans as “dirty” Hispanics who jump the fence into “America” to steal our jobs — because being American means being exclusively North American descended from the white Europeans who settled here.

To further the polished image white Europeans have managed to maintain, despite countless historical accounts of blatant racism, Arizona's law banning Mexican-American studies was ruled constitutional.

The Huffington Post reported that the law, which passed in 2010, is still causing problems. It prohibits a Mexican-American studies curriculum in Tucson, which emphasizes Mexican-American literature and perspectives, because it fosters left-wing ideas and resentment of whites. The law bans

any ethnic studies class for a specific ethnic group. Conservatives went as far as saying such courses “promote the overthrow of the U.S. government.”

Since when is looking at U.S. history from a non-white point of view indicative of anti-government sentiments? Schools educate students about the Middle Passage, slavery, the cruelties of plantation owners, the bombing of Japan and the killing of natives by giving them smallpox and syphilis, and no one's attempted a coup or made up a ludicrous conspiracy theory.

According to the Post, even when Erwin Chemerinsky, who recently represented the students challenging the law, presented the findings of an audit of the controversial curriculum and the results of a study published in the American Education Research Journal, Arizona's attorney, Leslie Kyman Cooper, said the law only aims to discontinue "divisive, segregated, separatist teaching."

If that's the case, then it follows that any curriculum that details the historical wrongdoings of whites in the U.S., past and present, should also be forbidden — a terrifying thought. The purpose of history is to learn from past mistakes, and if an entire country refuses to acknowledge its past, then

what will its future hold?

The Post said the 2011 audit showed the curriculum promoted critical-thinking and recommended expansion of the program, and the study found that the curriculum helped improve student performance on standardized tests and increased the graduation rate among Latinos in the district.

The fact that the law persists today is appalling because it ignores non-white cultures' perspectives of historical events. Looking at an issue from just one point of view is not effective. You can understand so much more about the past if you look at as many points of view as possible and not just a whitewashed one. Every point of view is equal in importance and has a place in history and in textbooks. Isolating history to fit the confines of pro-white culture contradicts the goal of education.

Of course, Cooper defended the law, which bans an obviously enriching curriculum, claiming it has no discriminatory nature against Mexican-Americans. I call shenanigans because conservative Arizona lawmakers are essentially targeting one group of people and saying they can't relate to their cultural roots. Cooper's argument folded in on itself when she stated that

a course on Japanese history would violate the law, just because students of a Japanese background would be more likely to take it. Arizona is right next to Mexico, which means there are probably some Mexican-Americans in Arizona who are interested in taking a course they can relate to.

I can't imagine a ban on a Canadian-American studies curriculum in a state with a large population of Canadians and Canadian-Americans, like California or Florida. Minus the distance, the case would be exactly the same as in Arizona. But the reason why the law exists in Arizona is because the U.S. has a negative history with Mexico. The law promotes intolerance of non-white culture and bias towards whites.

Cooper said, "I'm not sure it's the purpose of the public school system to inculcate ethnic pride." Yet she's promoting white favoritism in the classroom by shooting down all other racial perspectives.

Meanwhile, a course at Arizona State University called “U.S. Race Theory & the Problem of Whiteness” has come under fire by Fox News for attacking white people and directing the blame for social injustices on whites. Lee Bebout, the white professor of the course, said he received hate mail

following the Fox News segment bashing the course. So even when a course is about whites, it has to be how awesome they are and not about racism.

ASU issued a statement that said, "The class is designed to empower students to confront the difficult and often thorny issues that surround us today and reach thoughtful conclusions rather than display gut reactions. A university is an academic environment where we discuss and debate a wide array of viewpoints."

This is how we should handle ignorant censoring of courses regarding race. By following ASU's example, race can be talked about constructively. As a delicate, yet controversial, issue, a stand has to be made to promote teaching the truth, not burying it. The only way to combat bigotry is to have educated discussion, which we can't have if people aren't being educated in the first place.

Maybe this is why we're so low in ranking when it comes to education. Close-minded conservatives can't stand the thought of young people being exposed to the truth of the U.S.'s past, which, unfortunately, is painted red, bleached white and bruised blue, all thanks to racism.

“AMERICAN SNIPER”: A HISTORICALLY INACCURATE PROPAGANDA FILM

By: **Nicole Cocuy**
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Angered by the devastating 9/11 attacks, a Texas cowboy enlists in the armed forces to avenge his country and punish those responsible. He served four tours in Iraq as a Navy SEAL zealously killing off the worst supervillains of American history: Muslim terrorists. “American Sniper” follows the sacrifices, struggles and successes of war hero Chris Kyle, a man who never lost his fervor for the country he loves, even when those around him began to lose faith in the mission. “American Sniper” is more than just a war movie; it’s the embodiment of core American values: heroism, justice, bravery and patriotism. However, there is one significant fact the film forgot to clarify that, ultimately, transforms it into a problematic propaganda film: the war in Iraq had nothing to do with terrorist attacks or Al-Qaeda.

Here's a brief lesson on America's recent history. In 2001, soon after 9/11, we declared war on Afghanistan to take the Taliban out of power and find those who were responsible for the terrorist attacks. This was the true war on terror. Then, soon after our invasion in Afghanistan, former president George Bush delivered several impassioned speeches about 9/11, dripping with pathos, and seamlessly changed the subject to Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction. He never formally acknowledged a connection between terrorism and Hussein, simply because there wasn't one. Yet, according to

USA Today, 70 percent of the U.S. population in 2003 believed that Hussein, not Osama bin Laden, was the mastermind behind 9/11. We then invaded Iraq in 2003 to find weapons of mass destruction, weapons that we still haven't found and likely never existed, even though almost three-quarters of our population, Kyle included, thought we were going to fight terrorists.

If Kyle was deployed in Afghanistan, his motives and mission would have been completely justified. However, he, like a majority of the American population, was jaded by misleading rhetoric to support a war for reasons that weren't even real. The people he killed were not the same people who plotted to kill thousands of people on that Tuesday morning. The passionate anger he felt, just like the anger we all felt, was used by the government to fulfill a purpose other than counterterrorism.

Yet, this significant distinction between the Iraq War and the Afghanistan War wasn't brought to light in "American Sniper" because it would devalue Kyle's accomplishments and ruin the homage to a well-respected war hero. Instead, "American Sniper" perpetuated an ignorant, inaccurate perspective of our history and validated a war that should have never happened: a war that actually led to the formation of yet another terrorist group, ISIS.

Yes, Kyle helped America overthrow a terrible, abusive, corrupt dictator. However, thousands of innocent civilians, and several members

of our troops, lost their lives in process. Yes, thanks to the efforts of people like Kyle, Iraq was able to establish a democracy. However, the democracy was undemocratically forced upon a population that did not have the opportunity to select their preferred form of government. This paved the way for a corrupt party, ISIS, to come into power the second U.S. troops were sent home, similar to how the Nazis came to power after the Allied Powers forced Germany to replace its imperial government with a democracy after its loss in WWI. Instead of defeating terrorists, like “American Sniper” suggests, the real aftermath of America’s invasion of Iraq was actually the formation of even more terrorism.

I do not believe that Kyle was inherently evil. He legitimately believed that he was defending our country and our freedom as he fought in Iraq. I honor his efforts and sacrifices, as well as those of other Iraq War veterans. However, while his heart was in the right place, I believe that he, like most of our country, was misinformed and taken advantage of.

The creators of “American Sniper” are the ones who are in the wrong. They should have kept the reality of the Iraq War in mind while developing the film and should have at least tried to differentiate it from the war on terror. Instead, they created a propaganda film by glamorizing a geographically and historically inaccurate anti-terrorism war and spreading even more ignorance, misinformation and confusion about the War in Iraq.

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MISS UNIVERSE IS FAR FROM EMPOWERING

By: **Keren Moros**

Every year, millions of people around the world unite to watch a contest that crowns the world’s most beautiful and glamorous woman.

And every year, news of it makes me gag. It’s not that I don’t appreciate glamour or love sparkly gowns; I actually love makeup and tiaras and glitter.

No, my problem with the Miss Universe pageant isn’t the glitz. It’s the fact that it’s a beauty pageant.

The Miss Universe supposedly seeks an ambassador who can do good in the world. However, there are many people who are ambassadors for good around the world but not all of them look like a Miss Universe contestant. The pageant ignores this fact that instead bases personal monetary value and intrinsic worth on good looks. But we all know beauty is in the eye of the beholder; I may deem someone more physically beautiful than someone else, but that doesn’t mean I can judge how great of a person someone is based on their features.

It’s great that the Miss Universe Organization strives to help others.

As the website says, “During their reign, our winners are given the tools to personally and professionally enrich others by providing humanitarian efforts to affect positive change, all while developing their personal career goals.” Pageant winners get to make a difference in others’ lives by being an ambassador. However, the website also states that the contest is a “beauty pageant,” and inherent in the idea of a beauty pageant is the sexist notion that women have to fit a certain brand of beauty to be of worth. It’s the literal embodiment of the false notion that no matter how successful a woman is, she must also be beautiful to be noticed. The contest tells these women, “Sure, you can go around the world helping people and we’ll give you a modeling contract and free beauty products and a luxury apartment. But, oh wait, here’s the catch. You only got all this because we think you’re beautiful.”

But we do here about the contestants personal lives during the telecast, so it can’t all be about looks right? Wrong. In a recent interview with the “Today” show, billionaire Donald Trump, who owns the Miss Universe Organization said, “The Miss Universe

pageant is known to have the most beautiful women in the world. Whether it’s politically correct or not, who cares? It’s a formula that will never die.”

Trump doesn’t realize that the problem with the Miss Universe pageant isn’t that it’s not politically correct. In one statement, the owner of the pageant is telling people that the whole thing is about beautiful women, not what these women contribute to the world and not the charity work that the winner participates in.

Obviously, these women can use their pageant fame to reach their goals. Plus, there’s nothing wrong with using fame to bring attention to a cause you think people should know about. But the only thing the telecast pageant does to make these women famous is emphasize how important it is for them women to be attractive.

Before the pageant telecast, the finalists are chosen by preliminary judges. Preliminary judge Scott Lazerson, who interviewed 89 contestants for the 2011 pageant, revealed in an interview for Forbes that he looks for “beauty, intelligence and poise.” But then, the interviewer asked for “the real answer.” His response?

“Beauty, beauty, beauty. It’s all about beauty.” He noted that the contestants were also smart though “maybe not every single one of them.” He named a few intelligent standouts, then admitted with a laugh that none of made it to the final round.

The telecast judges are the ones who determine who makes it into the final round, based on the swimsuit and evening gown portions. What do they look for? According to one telecast judge this year, “Overall personality. The way you present yourself. Just be natural with it and look forward to being the next Miss Universe.” It makes sense that the judges can probably perceive how the contestants present themselves. Scrutinizing how they present themselves is a subjective and demeaning process. The amount of scrutiny their physical appearances are under, not just from the judges but from the audience, is simply ridiculous and unnecessary. While global ambassadors should have poise, no one needs to know how they walk in a bikini. Their inherent worth as human beings and their passion for helping others should be enough.

The only somewhat redeeming part of the pageant is the question and answer portion. I get that it’s important to be able to think on your feet and give educated answers on the spot. But a system that gives people a difficult question and only allows them 30 seconds to answer would only be understandable if the competition was based purely on intelligence and

rhetorical eloquence. But it’s not of course. After their bodies are sized up, these women are judged if they don’t give a great answer in front of millions of people. And if they choose not to use an interpreter, answering just gets harder for some of them.


The question and answer portion is a popular topic of conversation the day after the pageants. But in these conversations, including ones I’ve heard in person, it all goes back to whether or not they’re beautiful. Case in point: many of the comments on Miss Universe’s Facebook page photos are about how beautiful the women are or how a contestant has a snooty look on her face or how another’s legs are too skinny. There are next to no comments about what they want to accomplish and the work that they are passionate about.

Obviously, the Internet’s comments sections are not known for its kindness and fairness. People will always judge people. But the competition does the world no favors by bombarding viewers with photos of the women in bathing suits and images of them promotion beauty products while showing less than five minutes of the charity work Miss Universe did during her reign.

Ultimately, the Miss Universe competition places the women of the world on a pedestal not to celebrate them but to judge them and tear them down when they don’t reach an arbitrary standard. This is not the way to live our lives or treat other people. We can do better.

Shark Speak:

The SGA elections are coming up. What do you think the new SGA should prioritize?



“There should be a sidewalk to get to the residence halls from the athletic building to make it easier student athletes who live on campus.”

Dana Holger,
junior biology major

“SGA should try to get food prices lowered.”

Bernardo Jordan,
freshman chemistry major

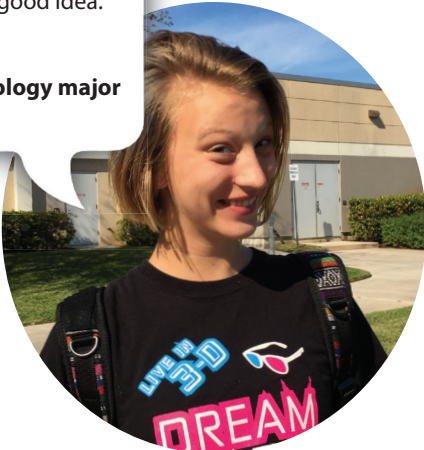


“Changing the hours of the Flight Deck Pub specials.”

Nestor Maceda-Johnson,
junior chemistry major

“The SGA should try to get more food options on campus. I think a pasta bar would be a good idea.”

Amy Anfinrud,
freshman marine biology major



“I think the SGA should try to make the school more energy-efficient. The lights in the residence halls should be dimmed after certain hours or should be put on a timer.”

Chiara Brown,
sophomore elementary education major



“More outdoor seating for studying and better Wi-Fi on campus.”

Joel Arrington,
MBA in finance student

